Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: RIVAL ANTI-A AND H BOMB GROUPS TO MERGE?

REF: TOKYO 18553 (DEC. 76)

SUMMARY. TOKYO PRESS REPORTS RIVAL COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST-SUPPORTED ANTI-A BOMB GROUPS WILL JOINTLY SPONSOR SYMPOSIUM IN AUGUST AND MERGE SOMETIME THEREAFTER. IN VIEW OF FOURTEEN YEAR RIVALRY BETWEEN GROUPS AND FEAR OF MANY SOCIALISTS THAT UNIFICATION WITH COMMUNISTS WOULD GIVE LATTER CHANGE TO CONTROL NEW GROUP, PROSPECTS FOR MERGER ARE PROBABLY DIMMER THAN PRESS REPORTED. END SUMMARY.

1. MAY 20 TOKYO PRESS GAVE FULL PLAY TO JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE BY CHAIRMEN OF GENSUIKYO AND GENSUIKIN IN WHICH THEY ANNOUNCED THAT (A) BOTH ORGANIZATIONS WOULD JOINTLY SPONSOR INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON EFFECTS OF ATOMIC BOMB IN HIROSHIMA IN AUGUST AND (B) TWO ORGANIZATIONS WERE AIMING AT MERGER WITHIN YEAR IN ORDER TO FORM A SINGLE, MASS ORGANIZATION. GENSUIKYO, COMMUNIST-DOMINATED ANTI-A AND H BOMB ORGANIZATION, AND GENSUIKIN, LARGER SOCIALIST-SUPPORTED COUNTERPART, SEPARATED IN 1963 WHEN COMMUNISTS, UNLIKE SOCIALISTS, REFUSED TO CONDEMN "DEFENSIVE" NUCLEAR TESTING BY USSR AND PRC ALONG WITH TESTING BY US AND OTHER WESTERN CONFIDENTIAL

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NATIONS. PRESS TREATED JOINT STATEMENT BY CHAIRMEN AS SIGNALING END OF FOURTEEN YEAR SPLIT.

2. COMMENT. JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY (JSP) STAFFER FAMILIAR WITH ISSUE TOLD EMBOFF HE WAS SURPRISED AT ANNOUNCEMENT IN PRESS. WHILE HE HAD NO DOUBT ABOUT BENEFIT TO BOTH GENSUIKYO AND GENSUIKIN OF JOINTLY SPONSORING AUGUST SYMPOSIUM, HE HAD BEEN

UNAWARE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO HAD BEEN PATCHED UP ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY STATEMENT THAT THEY WOULD REUNITE WITHIN YEAR. JSP VIEW HAD BEEN THAT, WHILE UNIFICATION GOOD, COMMUNISTS (JCP) WHERE NOT TO BE TRUSTED. JCP ORGANIZATION, GENSUIKYO, HAD DECLINED IN RECENT YEARS TO POINT THAT IT WAS COMPOSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY OF JCP FRONT GROUPS SUCH AS YOUTH AND WIVES' ORGANIZATIONS. IN CONTRAST, JSP'S ORGANIZATION WAS LARGER AND HAD SEVERAL OUTSIDE AFFILIATE GROUPS WHICH WERE NOT LINKED WITH JSP. COMMUNISTS WERE THOUGHT TO WANT UNIFICATION BECAUSE OF OPPORTUNITY IT OFFERED THEM TO EXPAND INFLUENCE AMONG OUTSIDE AFFILIATES AND EVENTUALLY TAKE OVER NEWLY MERGED GROUP ITSELF. WHILE THESE FEARS WOULD NOT LEAD SOCIALISTS INTO OPPOSING JOINT SPONSORSHIP OF SYMPOSIUM, THEY COULD BLOCK LATER STEPS TOWARD ACTUAL MERGER.

- 3. AS REFTEL REPORTS, AUGUST SYMPOSIUM WILL BE HELD SOMEWHAT MISLEADINGLY, UNDER "UN AUSPICES" AND MEDICAL SPECIALISTS AND OTHERS FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES WILL BE INVITED. WHILE STATUS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ACTIVITY APPARENTLY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO SYMPOSIUM BY UN, BOTH GENSUIKIN AND GENSUIKYO ARE STRETCHING THAT BILLING TO IMPLY UN SPONSORSHIP.
- 4. ADDITIONAL FACTOR IS THAT SYMPOSIUM WILL TAKE PLACE ON THIRTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF BOMBINGS. THIRTY-THREE YEARS HAS SPECIAL IMPORTANCE FOR BEREAVED FAMILIES IN JAPAN, SO BOTH ORGANIZATIONS WERE ENCOURAGED TO COOPERATE IN SPONSORSHIP AND ARE LIKELY TO MAKE MAJOR EFFORT WITH SYMPOSIUM AND OTHER OBSERVANCE ACTIVITIES.
- 5. POST IS POUCHING TO EA/J SERIES OF DOCUMENTS ON SYMPOSIUM OBTAINED FROM CONTACTS AT R ERF/HIROSHIMA. CONFIDENTIAL

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